

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 124878
ORIGIN IO-14

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INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS STATE 124878

NESCO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNESCO, SOPN

SUBJECT:104TH EXBD (ITEM 5.1.1): DR ON DG'S ORAL REPORT

REF: PARIS 15366

1. IN VIEW OF DG'S PUBLIC REPROACH OF GEORGE BEEBE (BY NAME) AND OTHERS ATTACKING HIM AND UNESCO, DEPT. CONCERNED THAT PART IV (PARA 8 REFTTEL) OF DR ON ORAL REPORT WOULD ESCALATE CONFLICT NEEDLESSLY AND POSSIBLY EXPOSE DG TO CHARGE THAT HE INSPIRED REPRIMAND BY EXBD.

2. USDEL SHOULD OPPOSE INCLUSION OF PART IV AS PRESENTLY WORDED, DRAWING UPON FOLLOWING MATERIAL IN ARGUMENTS: (A) USDEL HAS ALREADY DISSOCIATED ITSELF FROM THE DISPARAGING ATTACKS ON UNESCO AND ITS OFFICIALS. INTEMPERATE,
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EXTREMIST AND HIGHLY SECTARIAN RHETORIC ON INFORMATION AND MASS COMMUNICATION ISSUES IS UNFORTUNATELY BECOMING INCREASINGLY COMMONPLACE AND, OF COURSE, IS NOT CONFINED TO ONE SIDE. (FYI: IN HIS OPENING SPEECH TO HAVANA NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE ON INFORMATION APRIL 17, 1978, CUBAN POLITBURO MEMBER CARLOS RAFAEL RODRIGUEZ DENOUNCED: "TRANSNATIONAL MONOPOLY OF NEWS . . . CRUSHING OF THE

INDEPENDENT PRESS TO REPLACE IT WITH BIG INTERNATIONAL CONSORTIUMS, . . . TO IMPOSE UPON THE PEOPLES A 'TRUTH' DEvised AND MANIPULATED BY THEIR ENEMIES WHO CONTROL INFORMATION. " END FYI).

(B) EXBD SHOULD NOT, AS A RESPONSIBLE INTERNATIONAL BODY, CONTRIBUTE TO THIS VICIOUS CYCLE OF DENUNCIATION AND COUNTER-DENUNCIATION, BUT RATHER SHOULD STRIVE TO BREAK IT. THE PHRASE "CAMPAIGN OF DEFAMATION" IS HIGHLY CHARGED AND PROVOCATIVE AND WILL PREDICTABLY SERVE ONLY TO ESCALATE THE CONFLICT. THE EXBD SHOULD BE DECRYING THE USE OF EXTREMIST, INTEMPERATE AND HIGHLY SECTARIAN LANGUAGE ON ALL SIDES OF THESE ISSUES, RATHER THAN SUPPLYING ADDITIONAL FUEL TO THE FIRE.

(C) NO INSTITUTION IN SOCIETY--NEITHER UNESCO, NOR THE MASS MEDIA NOR ANY OTHER--CAN EXPECT, OR BE ENTITLED TO, IMMUNITY FROM PUBLIC CRITICISM. IT SHOULD OF COURSE BE FAIR, OBJECTIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISM, BUT THERE IS NO WAY WE CAN ENFORCE THIS DISCIPLINE UPON THE CRITICS. THE EXBD HAS NEVERTHELESS THE OPPORTUNITY TO SET AN EXAMPLE. VANCE

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